(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Pollution Control Board for the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board has delegated all the relevant powers to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee under Section 4 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 6 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

This delegation of power has been notified and came into force with effect from 1st June, 1993.

(c) Does not arise.

Mishandling of Funds of Indian Embassy in Athens

3878. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General has objected on mishandling of funds of Indian Embassy in Athens (Greece) as reported in the "Times of India", New Delhi on 7th June, 1993 under caption 'CAG pulls up Indian Mission on funds";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the case are that in September 1990, the Indian Mission in Athens, with the approval of this Ministry sold government property in Athens for Greek Drachmas 80 million. Pending the permission of the Greek Government, which was mandatory, for the repatriation of funds, the Mission deposited this amount in a local bank, in a separate interest bearing Savings Bank Account. In November 1991, at the instance of the Audit authorities, the Mission learnt that no interest was being earned as foreign governments were not permitted to keep funds in any interest bearing Savings Bank Account. When this matter was reported to the Ministry, further remittances of foreign exchange from India to the Mission were stopped and the Mission was instructed to utilise these funds to meet its day-to-day requirements. From February 1992, the Mission implemented these instructions. The amount of Greek Drachmas 80 million has since been fully utilised. The objection raised by the Audit authorities was that the Mission should have settled the question of interest unambiguously before putting the funds in the Bank account.

(c) In order to avoid recurrence of such instances in future, all Indian Missions/Posts abroad have been instructed to take adequate precautions in handling public funds.

Comparision between India and USA

3879. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-United Arab Emirates session of the Joint Commission for Economic Technical and Scientific Cooperation was held from June 6 to 8 this year;

(b) if so, what issues were considered at the meeting and what was the outcome thereof, and the steps taken and being taken to strengthen bilateral ties in the light thereof; and

(c) whether any extradition treaty proposals were discussed therein, if so, in what context and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Press Statement issued after conclusion of the session is enclosed, which furnishes the details (*See* below).

(c) Drafts covering a possible Treaty of Juridical and Judicial Cooperation, including Extradition, have been exchanged with UAE, and India's proposal to enter into negotiations is under consideration by them.

Press Statement

The Sixth meeting of the Indo-UAE Joint Commission was held in Abu Dhabi from June 6—8, 1993.

Mr. K. Srinivasan, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Mohammed Khalifa bin Yousef Al Suwaidi, Director, Economic Relations and International Cooperation,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the respective delegations.

The Joint Commission recognised the importance of the state visit to India in 1992 of His Highness Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and the instructions laid down regarding the directions of future cooperation between the UAE and India during his discussions with the Prime Minister of India. The Joint Commission noted that there had been substantial implementation of the relevant follow up action.

The Cultural Exchange Programme, 1993—95 and an Agreement to counter trafficking in Narcotic Drugs were initialled by the two sides. These two documents will be signed shortly at the appropriate level. Other agreements discussed were an Extradition Treaty and a Bilateral Investment Guarantee Agreement, which will require further technical examination. Both sides expressed their desire to conclude these agreements. The Avoidance of Double Tax Agreement is ready for ratification.

Potential investors from the UAE were urged to make direct contacts with the relevant Indian parties concerned with concrete investment opportunities in the refinery, petrochemical, tourism and portfolio management sectors. In these fields as also in the contemplated investment in a hospital-cum-hotel project, the UAE was invited to send delegations to India for further discussions.

Both sides viewed with satisfaction the recent visit to the UAE of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and his invitation to the UAE Central Bank Governor to visit India to further develop closer issues in the banking sector. The UAE side stated that delegations from the Federal Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the UAE and the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry are expected to visit India shortly, as also a delegation from the UAE Health Ministry to make contacts in Indian pharmaceutical industry.

Both sides noted that the trade figures for 1991-92, which are the latest available, show a significant increase in bilateral turnover.

India conveyed its intention to purchase oil from the UAE in enhanced quantity during 1993-94.

The UAE side conveyed interest in deepening co-operation in the industrial, agricultural and planning fields. Some proposals were made regarding provision of consultancy services, feasibility studies, technical assistance and training facilities. India agreed to respond favourably to these suggestions.

Further co-operation in Posts and Telecommunications would be discussed between India and the GCC in a meeting to be held shortly.

Labour, Consular and Manpower questions were discussed in some detail, along with specific cases which require resolution. The UAE side expressed willingness to consider these issues sympathetically. Both sides agreed to strengthen the co-operation in matters raised through the channel of Interpol.

The Seventh meeting of the Joint Commission will take place in New Delhi this following winter.

During discussions at the Foreign Ministry, the invitation extended by the Government of India to His Highness Shaikh Hamdan bin Zayed al Nahayan to make an official visit to India was renewed. The invitation for a round of Foreign Office consultations at Delhi was also extended.

Extradition of Terrorists

3880. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered signing extradition treaty with Arab Countries as part of its drive against international terrorism;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of the Arab Countries thereto;

(c) whether Government also proposes to sign an extradition treaty with Nepal in view of open borders;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what action Government propose to take for the extradition of terrorists and criminals who fled to Nepal after committing crimes in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) A bilateral extradition treaty has been proposed to the UAE. There is no proposal under discussion with any other Arab country.

(b) The draft text is under consideration of Government of the UAE. Once they communi-